UNITED STATES KARATE ALLIANCE

BUSHIDO BULLETIN

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TAKE A VACATION: *SOUTHERN* STYLE

Enjoy southern hospitality as you tour the French Quarter, the Riverwalk, the Aquarium of the Americas, Jackson Square, the D-Day Museum, and Jazzland in New Orleans, Louisiana. Jazzland is America's newest major theme park on over 140 acres in New Orleans. The park features 30 world class fun rides for the whole family, plus six exciting theme areas including Jazz Plaza, Cajun Country, Pontchartrain Beach, Mardi Gras, Kid's Carnival, and Goodtime Gardens. Tickets for Jazzland are available at the discounted rate of $21.50 per person through Dr. David Jordan. Call Dr. Jordan at (318) 255-3763 for more information.

Now, combine all that southern hospitality with world class martial arts competition, and what have you got? A southern style vacation with lots of karate-kicking pizzazz.

Pre-register for the 2001 World Championships by July 20, 2001, and you can register for Individual Kata, Team Kata, Individual Kumite, Team Kumite, Kobudo, Continuous Sparring, Ground Grappling, Musical Forms, Chanbara, and Koshiki, All for the one low price of $95.00! If you haven't received your World Flyer yet, contact Dr. Jordan at the above number to receive yours.

Don't miss the Annual Awards Banquet held August 4th, during the World Championships, at the Radisson Hotel. The Alliance National Points Competitors who have placed in the top ten in the Nation, will be recognized with personalized certificates at the banquet. Those who have placed in the top three in the Nation, will be recognized with a trophy, too. It's always great fun to dress up, eat lots, and celebrate with team mates and competitors alike.

We'll be seeing you in New Orleans August 2nd for Continuous Sparring competition and Referee, Judges, and Score Keepers Certification, and August 3rd for Weapons, Musical Kata, Team Kumite, Koshiki, and Chanbara

competition, and August 4th for Kata and Team competition, and August 5th for Sparring and Ground Grappling competition and the World Championship Finals.

SIX OF NINE NATIONAL WINNERS REPEAT: JOHN PAT BULLOCK WON'T FIGHT NEXT YEAR

by Rick Nathanson, 7th Dan

Saying that seven is enough, John Pat Bullock, who won Black Belt Men Grand Champion Kumite once again, said he will not compete in the fighting events at next year's Nationals.

"I'm hoping someone will step up and take my place," said Mr. Bullock. "I think seven is enough for any person. There needs to be someone who's ready. We need some of these younger black belts to stand up and say 'I'm the next Eddie Bethea. I'm the next Steve Perry. I'm the next Joe Dupaquier.'"

How about the next John Pat Bullock?

This year is the fifth year in a row Mr. Bullock captured the fighting title, and the seventh year he has won the event. "It's time for me to start teaching and have students competing here. It's the start of the time for me to become a sensei and let go."

But not completely. Mr. Bullock, a Tae Kwon Do stylist from Louisiana, said he intends to compete next year in the kata and kobudo events.

The 2001 United States Karate Alliance Nationals and Seminar Series was held April 5-8 in Albuquerque's Crowne Plaza Pyramid Hotel. The double maximum point tournament attracted competitors and spectators from all over the United States, including a contingent from Spain, packing the huge ballroom at the Crowne Plaza. Beautiful trophies were awarded in more than 120 divisions, including nine coveted Alliance Cups, which went to six people who won grand champion trophies last year. There were also informative seminars which were led by Fumio Demura, Bruce and Ann-Marie Heilman, Maria Evans and Lee Kittell.

In addition to Mr. Bullock, others returning to take home grand champion trophies again were Guy Holtzman, C. Bruce Heilman, Anna Chalamidas, Christina VanGieson and Chris Otwell.

For finals, Mr. Bullock was matched with Randy Sanders, of New Mexico, and Buster Cotten and Joe Dupaquier, both of Louisiana.

"I'd seen Randy fight the last couple of years and never got to fight him," Mr. Bullock said. "He worked angles the whole fight and was catching me off guard. It took me a good portion of the match to

where I really even felt comfortable." Nevertheless. Mr. Bullock won the fight 4-2.

"My second fight was with Buster Cotten, and man, I was scared to death. We're dojo mates and friends and I warmed up with him before the fight and he was just eating my lunch. I said there's just no way. He's really, really fast, and all of his techniques were just crisp and sharp."

During the finals match, Mr. Bullock changed his fighting approach. "I increased the distance because he's moving so fast, and then I got a little deeper in my stances and tried to keep my hips lower than his on some offensive moves. It seemed to work well. He jumped out on me 1-nothing, and then I got three points on him. But he was probably the best fighter here today."

The fight with Mr. Dupaquier went into overtime with a score of 1-1. Because of Mr. Dupaquier's great speed, Mr. Bullock said he opened the gap just enough to give him a little safety margin, but not enough -- hopefully -- for Mr. Dupaquier to discern.

At one point, both fighters went to the floor. "I got up and saw out of the corner of my eye that Joe had gotten up a little before me and was just running at me. I side stepped him while he was punching and grabbed him by the shoulder and threw him off the stage."

Mr. Bullock ended the match with a backhand to reclaim the grand champion title for his seventh, and he says, final time.

In the Black Belt Kata finals, it must have seemed like déjà vu all over again for Mr. Guy Holtzman, who won the title for the sixth time in the last eight years.

Mr. Holtzman performed "Nyudo Tsudo." One Cry of the Crane, a White Crane form. "It has a lot of soft crane movements and blends soft and hard, which is what karate should be, a blend of both," he said. "There are also a lot of self defense techniques and fighting techniques that resemble the crane."

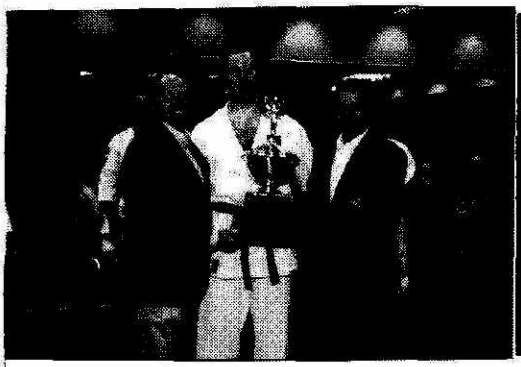
A White Crane Matsumura Seito stylist from Palm Springs, Calif., Mr. Holtzman trains under John Hutchcroft, Philip Koeppel and Roy Oyakawa. The kata, he said, came to him via Mr. Oyakawa.

Mr. Holtzman said that he has lately been working with Mr. Koeppel on the concept of centering. something readily apparent to the judges on Mr. Holtzman's kata board. Several of them later commented about how the raised stage literally vibrated as Mr. Holtzman began his form.

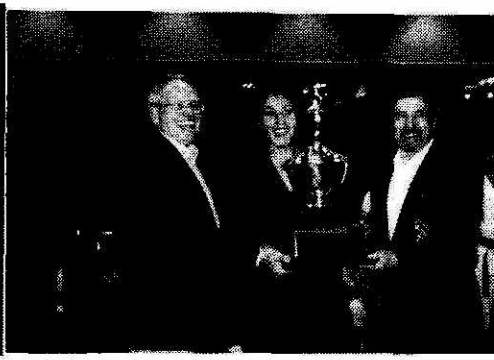
Mr. Holtzman said the kata competition was extremely tough this year. He said he was especially impressed with Don Lanier, whom he thought might take the grand championship. "I thought he looked very good."

Anna Chalamidas retained the Grand Champion Women's Black Belt Kumite title by defeating Monica Rivers and Cassandra Shults.

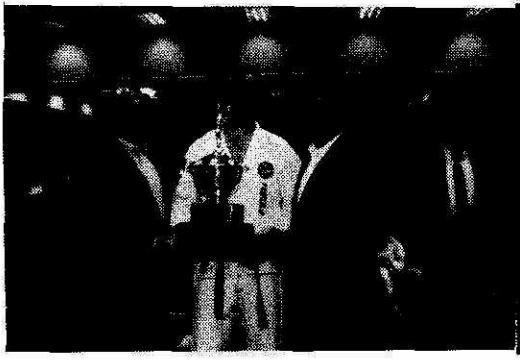
"I felt kind of stuck with Monica," she said. "I should have used more distance than I did. With Cassandra, my distance was even longer. I've fought her before and I know her a little bit. She's fast and closes the gap fast, and she has very nice footwork."



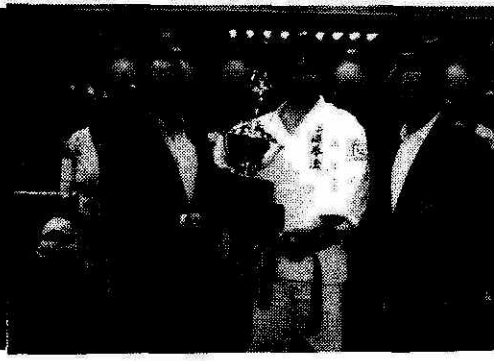
John Pat Bullock



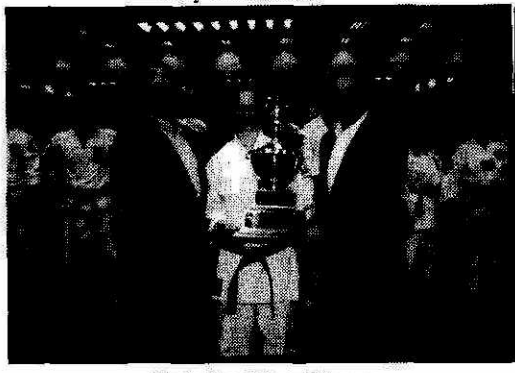
Anna Chalamidas



Guy Holtzman

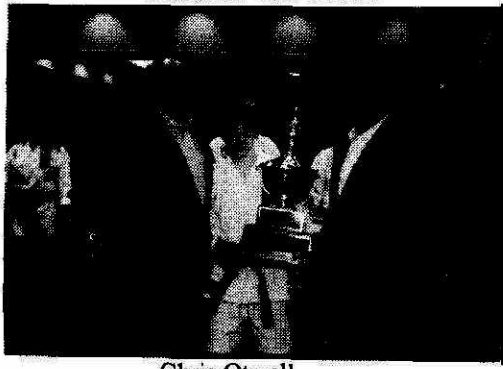


C. Bruce Heilman

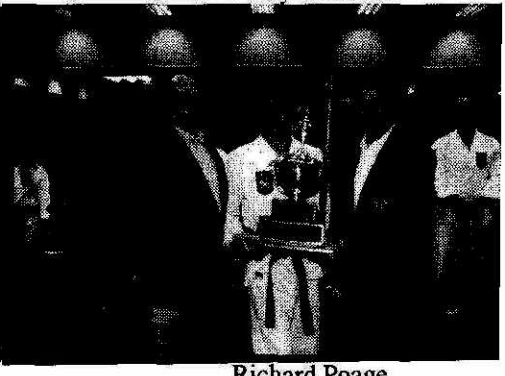


Christina Van Gieson

J. Wayne Bevers



Chris Otwell



Richard Poage

Earlier in the day, Ms. Chalamidas said she watched Ms. Rivers perform kata. "I've never seen dynamics like that in a woman before," she said. "Then, when I saw her fight some other people I knew she was bringing those same dynamics to her fighting, too, which I experienced in my fight with her."

Ms. Chalamidas ran out the clock and won her fight against Ms. Rivers 4-3. She prevailed over Ms. Shults 3-1. A Shotokan stylist, Ms. Chalamidas trains under Mark Gorman at the University of New Mexico Karate Club.

"Go Pei Sho" proved to be a good kata for Shuri Ryu stylist Christina VanGieson, whose performance of it won her Grand Champion Adult Kyu Forms. Last year, she won the same title performing "Bassai-Dai," in addition to a second grand champion title in Adult Kyu Weapons Forms.

Ms. VanGieson said she likes Go Pei Sho because of the extremes of dynamics it requires. "There's parts where you are calm and have to change your whole facial expression, your whole body chemistry," she said. "And then there's parts where you have to immediately change. Also, the stances are hard to do. They are low, and you have to maintain that throughout the kata."

Ms. VanGieson studies under Maria Evans in Riverside, Calif.

Thirteen-year-old Chris Otwell performed the kata "Yunbe" for only the second time in a tournament. The judges obviously liked what they saw. Mr. Otwell won the Alliance Cup Junior Forms Advanced Grand Champion trophy. Last year, he took home the grand champion title for Junior Advanced Weapons Forms.

Mr. Otwell, who ran "Shipsu" during last year's weapons competition, said he chose Yunbe this time "because it's shorter and I can put more power in the whole thing," without losing intensity and fading out toward the end of the kata. The most difficult movement in the kata is the jump, he said, though to spectators and judges alike, the jump and landing seemed flawless.

Mr. Otwell said he expects to continue working Yunbe as his tournament form for 18-24 months, which he said is typical for him. Mr. Otwell is a Tae Kwon Do stylist who studies under Buster Cotten in Louisiana.

Ryu Kyu Kempo karate instructor Mike Wall has reason to be pleased. His Arizona dojo was represented at Nationals by 21 students who returned with 42 trophies, including two grand championships.

Fifteen-year-old shodan Richard Poage took home the Junior Weapons Grand Championship title. He performed the oar kata "Oyata Kihon No Eiku."

Mr. Poage, a high school freshman, has been to five Nationals since 1994. This year marks his first grand champion win. He also took a first place in koshiki. Last year, he won first place in his weapons division. Preparation for Nationals, he said, basically involved "going to more tournaments and practicing harder."

Mr. Poage traveled to more than 20 tournaments this

point season, but it paid off. He finished the season ranked first in weapons, kumite, kata in his age and rank divisions and second in koshiki, grappling, and chanbara.

"It was my best year yet and it's all because of Mr. Wall. He taught me everything I know, and I couldn't have done it without him."

The Junior Forms Beginning Grand Champion was awarded to 6-year-old first-grader Tori Summey. She performed "Tomari Seisan."

"You feel great," the yellow belt said about her win. "I was kind of nervous, but I knew I would do good because I practiced every day."

She enjoys performing this particular kata, she said, "because I like making the breathing out noise."

No, this is not a tensho form, explained Mr. Wall. "We work more sounds when we do kata. It makes the kata more dynamic."

Ms. Summey's father, Dutch, got her involved in karate about two years ago. Tori's sister, Keili, 7, also trains under Mr. Wall. She is a blue belt. When Tori first started, "she couldn't stay on the matt for a whole class," said her dad. "Her ability to sit and focus on something has increased quite a bit," which has been beneficial to Tori in school.

Although her win at Nationals was in kata, "her favorite thing is kumite," said her dad. "She'd rather be doing that than anything." Sister Keili, on the other hand, loves kata. Both girls competed in other events at Nationals. Tori got 5th place in weapons and 1st place in kumite. She finished the point year 1st in kata and kumite and in the top-10 in weapons. Keili got 2nd places in kata and kumite at Nationals, and finished the point season ranked 1st in kata, kumite and weapons in her age division.

J. Wayne Bevers of Roswell, N.M., has competed in four USKA Nationals. The fourth one apparently was the charmer. Mr. Bevers won the Adult Kyu Weapons Grand Champion title. "It's my first ever win at Nationals," he said. "It's very exciting. It's one of those things you dream about."

Mr. Bevers, a Toku Ryu stylist, said his Sensei, Orlando Rodriguez, was present to see him win, making the victory that much sweeter.

Mr. Bevers won the grand championship with his performance of "Bo Kata Shodan," a traditional bo kata from his system. "Normally in our system, we don't start doing weapons until black belt. I started when I was a blue belt and my sensei worked with me on the side. I'm the only one at my dojo who competes, and I think that's the reason why I didn't have to wait to do weapons."

Mr. Bevers said he enjoys running bo because he thinks of the weapon as "practical." "Anything can become a bo -- a stick, a pool cue, a broom. You can pretty much find something to use just about anywhere. You probably won't find a sai lying around."

To prepare for Nationals, Mr. Bevers practiced with a 30-pound steel rod. "It forced me to get into solid stances, and it built muscle as I went through the movements," he explained. "Then,

when I'd pick up my wooden Shureido bo for tournaments. it was like there was no weight to it. and I can move it at higher speed."

Mr. Bevers said he is convinced that competing at tournaments has made him a better martial artist, and he has done a fair amount of it since began studying karate in January 1997, at age 40. "You can't finish the point year in four first place spots just by competing in one state. You have to travel and you have to place at the tournaments you enter."

In addition to his grand champion trophy from Nationals, Mr. Bevers also took 1st place in Chanbara. 3rd place in kata and 4th place in kumite.

If that weren't enough, he finished the 2000-2001 point season ranked 1st in four divisions: adult kyu weapons, senior mens kumite, adult senior kyu kata, and adult chanbara.

"It really has been a storybook year for me," he said. "That's what I like about the USKA, that a guy from nowhere Roswell, New Mexico can achieve something like this. I'm grateful to Sensei Hawkes and Dr. Jordan for creating this organization and these opportunities."

TRIAS MEMORIAL AWARD AWARDED AT NATIONALS

The Trias Memorial Award is awarded to individuals, who in or out of the martial arts, exemplify the things that Grandmaster Trias represented. This last year's recipient, Cindy Long, was presented with the award at the 2001 Nationals. She has been a role model for her children and her students, as well as an active leader in her community.

Ms. Long, along with her husband Richard, are the owner/instructors of Belen Goju Ryu in Belen, New Mexico. She has been the President of the Belen Chamber of Commerce and served on the board for many years. Ms. Long has worn many hats over the years. She has home schooled her children, taught numerous self defense classes, karate classes, aerobics classes, and has been a staunch competitor in addition to the many contributions she has made to her community.

In November of 1999, she was in a devastating car wreck, which left her in a coma for many days. When she awoke, she had amnesia, and did not recognize her own family. She has made enormous strides in her recovery, and attributes much of it to her karate training. Ms Long had many things to relearn, including tying her shoes, but amazingly, she is now back on the tournament circuit doing very well, even taking a fourth place at Nationals.

The United States Karate Alliance is proud to award Cindy Long the Trias Memorial Award – Well deserved, Ms. Long! You have been an inspiration to us all! We look forward to seeing you at the World Championships in New Orleans.

THE UNITED STATES
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